

EXECUTIVE SESSION
MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF SEAT PLEASANT

May 5, 1980

The Executive Session of the Mayor and City Council was called to order at 7:20 p.m. Pursuant to the rules of Procedure, Mr. Tobias called the roll at 7:23 p.m. and the following members were present:

Mr. Frank J. Blackwell, Chairman

Mr. Hubert L. Gallion

Mr. Thomas W. Brooks

Mrs. Rosalie S. Jones

Mr. Ernest Digennaro

Absent: Mr. Joseph V. Whitfield

Mr. Virginius Williams

(arrived at 7:52 p.m.)

(arrived at 7:57 p.m.)

Mayor Arrington arrived at 7:33 p.m.

CORRECTIONS TO THE MINUTES

Mr. Digennaro - Under the caption Mayor's Report instead of Ceta Program the Minutes should be corrected to read, Summer Program.

Mr. Brooks - Asked for a clarification on the vacant positions in Public Works, the Minutes were changed to read as follows: The two vacant positions instead of positions in Public Works.

Mr. Digennaro - Corrected the Minutes to read under the caption "Municipal Infraction" that a report on the 124 vehicles has there been a decrease or is there a continuance of these vehicles on private property? Mr. Tobias replied that there were 124 vehicles at the time the survey that didn't have a license or were improperly tagged. Mr. Blackwell requested Mr. Tobias to check with Mr. Phil Latson, Code Enforcer to see if the 124 vehicles have increased or decreased in number and report back to the Council.

With the above corrections the Minutes for the April 7, 1980 Executive Session were approved as read.

A Thank-You card from Mr. Charles Nelson was received and read to the Council for the fruit-basket he received from the City.

MAYOR'S REPORT - Mr. Tobias read the Mayor's report at 7:55 p.m.

Economic Development - Mr. Blackwell asked Mr. Tobias to briefly state what the property options were for the East-Washington Railway and Phillips Clark property? Mr. Tobias stated that one of the options have already expired and the other will expire in May. It is anticipated that it will take an additional three months to get HUD to approve the Section 108 Loan. Mr. Fannon was asked to prepare a proposal requesting that the property options be extended an additional six months to take in any contingencies. Mayor Arrington stated that the City has a option from the East-Washington Railway not to sell the property to anyone else for a small fee which will be applied to the purchase price whenever the City decides to purchase. Mr. Whitfield asked Mr. Tobias does the property continue to depreciate? Mr. Tobias explained that the contract locks them into the quoted price.

Central Avenue Development - Mayor Arrington asked Mr. Tobias, had an answer to the proposal that was sent to Local Development Corporation been received? Mr. Tobias stated that he had not received any reviews or comments from Councilmembers and would like to have their input before the meeting with Mr. Roberts again. Mayor Arrington further commented that each Councilmember should respond and whatever way Council wants to go that is the way they should go.

Goodwin Park - Mr. Williams stated that the brick wall at Goodwin Park had been knocked down. He suggested that metal ornamental wrought iron be put in to prevent children from sitting on the wall. He also suggested putting wrought iron as a incasement.

IPA Grant - Mr. Blackwell asked Mr. Tobias what is the intent of the grant? Mr. Tobias explained that he was trying to develop additional training for City employees who would like to strengthen skills relevant to City employment.

Greendale - Mr. Blackwell suggested to the Council that they get a new contractor due to the poor management on the part of Mr. Lester Reese. Mayor Arrington explained that Mr. Reese had already designed the rehabilitation of the Greendale project and by the time the money was received there was a \$50,000.00 increase in the price. It was recommended by Councilmembers that Mr. Tobias contact Mr. Reese to schedule an appointment to meet with them at his earliest possible convenience. Mayor Arrington further commented by stating that the Council should establish how much more money they would want to spend and what is the cost; and from there a decision could be possibly be made on how much additional work needs to be done. He further commented that there is a tremendous amount of paperwork that is involved and by the time Mr. Chen reviews and come up with a decision the cost has escalated, because it usually takes about ninety days for the whole process. Discussion continued to pursue on this matter.

Pavement Markings - Mr. Tobias informed Councilmembers that Mr. John Koehn, from the Maryland State Highway Department had notified him of a cost increase on the pavement markings because of a supplementary cost. Mr. Williams asked Mr. Tobias what was the cost increase for? In response Mr. Tobias stated that because of administrative overhead, cost of financial straints etc; Mr. Koehn will be submitting a letter to Mr. Tobias stating what the supplementary cost are and Mr. Tobias will notify Councilmembers when he receives the letter.

Activity Center - Mr. Williams pointed out to Councilmembers illegal parking on the Activity Center parking lot grounds. He also mentioned broken glass from alcoholic beverage bottles and other types of debri. Mr. Gallion commented on the roof leaking in the Center. Mayor Arrington explained that the leaking roof has also damaged the electrical system and the electrician had come out and repaired the damages and sent a bill for the amount of some \$2,000.00. Since that time the warranties have been misplaced. Park and Planning said they have not received them.

Personnel Report - Mr. Blackwell remarked about the two Ceta positions, Educational Counselor and Community Technician. He asked were they going to work with Another Way or Youth Crime. Mr. Tobias commented by stating that both of these positions will be working with Youth Crime. Mr. Brooks commented on the positions of Mr. Harshaw as related to Mr. McCain. He stated that the salary of Mr. McCain was merited because he had mechanical skills that he performed for the City. Mr. Tobias informed Mr. Brooks that Mr. Harshaw also had skills that were relevent to the City i.e.; bricklaying skills, and carpentry skills, leadership skills. Mr. Blackwell asked if Mr. Bowser is receiving the same salary that Mr. Harshaw was receiving as Assistant Foreman? He also stated that the City does not need two supervisors. Mayor Arrington proceeded with briefing Councilmembers that Mr. Harshaw exceeded Mr. McCain in his supervisory skills and it was called to his attention that Mr. Bowser and Mr. Harshaw are dependable employees. He further commented on the long hours that Mr. Bowser puts in setting-up affairs at the Activity Center and cleaning up after the functions are over. Mayor Arrington also pointed out that if the position is a budgeted position then the City has a obligation to fill the vacancy with a person who can do the job. Mr. Gallion stated that the only problem he has with what Mayor Arrington has stated is that the individual should be made aware of the fact that the position is temporary. Mayor Arrington replied that the

employee is on a temporary probation for six months so they are already aware of the position being temporary.

Mr. Blackwell commented that this was good input on the part of the Council and something to think about when getting into the personnel section of the budget

Mr. Tobias informed the Council that he had failed to make mention of the fact that he had forgotten Advertising and Medical Expenses under the line item in the budget. It should be a line item under Public Works and that Mr. Stump had brought to his attention that the City does not receive full reimbursement from Workmens Compensation in case an employee is injured.

OLD BUSINESS

Council Identification Badges - Mr. Digennaro pointed out to Mr. Tobias about the identification badges for Councilmembers and asked had he made any progress concerning this matter. Mr. Tobias commented that he had contacted the Company in Baltimore with the anticipation of receiving an old badge from a Councilmember to use as a guide when purchasing. Mr. Blackwell suggested that Mrs. Jones and Mr. Tobias work jointly on ordering the badges.

Cable-Vision Television - Mr. Digennaro asked Councilmembers what the decision was on the Cable-Vision Television? Mr. Blackwell stated that before a decision is determined we should wait until the County comes in with their's. He also suggested that the City have some input and invite all the salespeople in to give there presentation. Mr. Williams suggested that these various representatives from the cable-vision companies be brought in and that the citizens of Seat Pleasant have some comments along with Councilpersons on the possibilities of this happening in the area.

Mayor Arrington's Report on Cable-Vision - Mayor Arrington informed Councilmembers on the information he had received from the County on Cable-Vision. He stated that between the time that the County advertises they will state that the proposals be in within 120-days examining these proposals because they are highly technical. The County has been divided into two sections (Northern and Southern) and it has been estimated that it will cost fourteen million dollars to build a system in each one of those sections regardless who gets it. No one operator will get a section of the County there will be two different operators.

Mayor Arrington believes that there is no way that Cross Country can build a fourteen million dollar system for Capitol Heights and Seat Pleasant because their is not a fourteen million dollar market there and they would never recover their money in all of our lifetimes put together. His suggestion is to wait and he does not think that anyone will start building before one year, and by that time the County will have awarded its franchises and then the City could select who they wanted and have time to evaluate the system.

Fresno Street - Mrs. Jones reported to Councilmembers that the short-cut behind the A&P store on Fresno Street that all the dirt had washed out and was imposing a potential hazard. She explained that the sidewalk will eventually wash away because it has started to erode. Mayor Arrington stated that Mr. Tobias should get the City Engineer to look at the plans to see whether the property belongs to the City or to the A&P. Mrs. Jones would also like someone to look at the potholes in the A&P lot and see if there is a possibility of getting them filled. She also pointed out to Councilmembers about making provisions for the cutting of grass for senior citizens. Mayor Arrington stated he thought that the Jaycees would be happy to take a project to cut grass for the senior citizens and also the Boy Scouts that live in the City. Mr. Whitfield suggested to Councilmembers that he thought that they should develop some kind of policy as the Council of the City of Seat Pleasant. We should be able to identify when a senior citizen really needs help. Mr. Blackwell assigned Ms. Jones the task

coming up with a policy for senior citizens and bring back to Council for consideration.

NEW BUSINESS

Voter Registration - Mr. Blackwell stated that he would like to know how the City's voter registration would adhere to the County's registration which is coming up in September and what date was being planned to start people registering. Mayor Arrington stated that what is usually done is that the Chief Registration Clerk and himself get together and arrange a date and decide at least one period of two weeks one day being on a Saturday for those who have to work during the week. Mayor Arrington stated that he had spoken with Mr. Antonetti, Chief Registration Clerk for the County and he would like to know if the City would be interested in having one voter registration i.e.; (for those persons who live in the County once they register with the County, would only have to register on a one time basis). He mentioned that Capitol Heights had already implemented this process and it was working very well.

Mr. Blackwell expressed concern over the people that have not registered due to the moving into the City of new people. He further contended that in his Ward 4 there are at least 75% to 100% of those people who have not registered. Mayor Arrington suggested extensive advertising as to where and what, and all that person has to do is come to City Hall and pick up a form and fill it out and they swear out a oath to the County and this is proof enough as far as the City is concerned.

Guest Speaker - Mr. Foster Voter Registration Officer

Mr. Maurice Foster, Chief Voter Registration Officer for the City of Seat Pleasant reported Council that the turnover at the last election was very poor. He stated that with the number of people that live in Seat Pleasant that only 160 people turned out to vote. Concern was also expressed over the legibility of the writing of names and filling out the required forms, and that he and his committee had to stay up until 3 a.m. to read the information on the forms. If the names are not legible then the registration will not be honored as stated by Mr. Foster. He also mentioned that a person will have to vote once every four years in order to vote in the next election. According to the Charter that is now being honored in the City, the Charter reads: that the only way that a person can be removed from voter registration if that person is deceased. Mr. Foster would like the Council to amend something to do away with the way it is now written.

Confirmation City Clerk - Mr. Whitfield withdrew his motion confirming Mrs. Gunn as the City Clerk until Mayor Arrington submits to the Council his request for nomination. Mayor Arrington further stated that in order to be made a part of the record, in the past there was a appointment as Acting City Clerk and a written request from the Mayor requesting her confirmation. Mayor Arrington stated that he would submit a written request announcing the confirmation at the meeting of the next Public Session.

City Seal - Concern was raised by the Chairman, Mr. Blackwell to the whereabouts of the City Seal. It was suggested by Mr. Blackwell that the Clerk be notarized and the seal kept in her possession due to certain documents that require the Seal of the City. Mrs. Gunn will report back on the progress of the notarization and the whereabouts of the seal. Mayor Arrington informed Councilmembers that Mrs. Nightengale, Accounting Clerk is a confirmed notary.

Sub-Committee Reports - Administrative Chairman Mrs. Rosalie Jones reported that Mrs. Rosa Black and herself along with two members from the Board of Education (Mr. Kaufman, and Mr. Sinclair) met in Upper Marlboro for the purpose of judging the writing contest.

Personnel - Mrs. Jones had visited City Hall and was formerly introduced to the new City personnel. She stated that Ms. Mary Jones, Clerical Aide in Public Works requested paint and curtains in an effort to clean up the Public Works Department. Ms. Pamela West, Clerical Supervisor/Community Service Aide. Mrs. Doris Townsend is presently working with the Census and once the Census is completed she will assume various duties in the City. Mrs. Jones commented that she had met Mrs. Blanche Ellis who is on permanent staff and commended her for the fine job she is doing. Mayor Arrington agreed with Mrs. Jones and stated that he has received some good reports and also noticed that Mrs. Ellis was doing a splendid job.

Mr. Digennaro; Public Works Committee - Informed Councilmembers that he has notified the County Public Works Department about the surplus equipment the City would like to sell. They have been asked to come out and suggest a reasonable price for the equipment he stated that they are now waiting for a response from the County. He further commented that Mr. Harshaw has requested some wood chips and top soil and he was able to fill the request at no cost to the City, and he also donated some shrubbery from his yard.

Mr. Gallion; Recreation Committee - Mr. Gallion distributed to Councilmembers a copy of the report of the meetings that his committee had completed. A brief outline was submitted by Mr. Gallion on the activities that were planned for the Activity Center and some of the programs that were anticipated by the Committee such as, a senior citizen program, potluck dinner for the 17th of April for the purpose of raising funds, etc.;... His second report dated April 30, 1980 briefly remarked on the dance that the Civil Air Patrol anticipated on the 24th of May. The report outlined that the current contract does not include rates for area City sponsored organizations.

. Gallion would like the Council to make a decision on the two wedding receptions that will be held on Saturday, May 17, 1980. He further commented that the small room will be used at this time and the general consensus he thought was the room was only to be used for recreation.

Mayor Arrington commented that it would be more reasonable to use the small room if a reception for fifty people were being held because you could better contain the trash and the flow of people using the Center.

Mr. Blackwell stated that if they had two adult functions going on at the same time with one being of a small group and the other in the gymnasium. This could be a means of generating money as stated by Mr. Blackwell.

Mr. Tobias informed the Council that they do not have anymore table and chairs at the Activity Center. He explained that Park & Planning will not let the City use the table and chairs. He further stated that they were losing money on one of the functions scheduled at the Center because they had to rent equipment from AAA Rentals. Discussion continued to pursue on this matter.

Mr. Gallion concluded that the contract will have to be reviewed by the Council because there are two items that have come up since the contract was established. 1) price increase, 2) and the contract the Center Director Mr. Carter is using, he is now using the contract that Mayor Arrington signed and it is totally different from the one that Mr. Fannon drafted.

Mayor Arrington stated that his understanding from Mr. Carter is that the City gets top priority and when the City is not using the Center he would like to have dances or cabaret's as a way of generating money. Councilmembers felt that the money that Mr. Carter generates from his activities that he holds in the Center should go towards buying gym equipment.

Mr. Blackwell suggested that the Recreation Committee and Mr. Carter and Mr. Tobias have a

meeting and discuss the terms and come up with some kind of agreement based on what has been discussed today, and report back to Council.

Economic Development - Mr. Williams reported on the mini-charette that Ms. Black and Mr. Brooks and himself had participated in. He reported to Councilmembers that they had explored the areas of Greendale, Cabin Branch, and Holley Park with the possibility in mind to improve these sites. He remarked that the plan would improve these sites i.e.; playgrounds with play equipment for ages 4-8 years old and 8-12 years old, shuffle board courts for senior citizens, skating rinks, water fountains. Mr. Williams commented that Greendale and Holley Park were the spots most likely to implement the recreational conveniences mentioned.

Gas Allocation - Mr. Blackwell raised the issue from the Agenda on the approximately \$12,000.00 outstanding debt that was pending in accounts receivable and owed the City by persons attaining gas from the City gas pump. He further explained that Council in the next two weeks would have to come up with a policy to recover some or all of these monies. He suggested that Mr. Tobias would come up with a policy for all City vehicles that are receiving gas from the City pump and a accurate account of the amount and cost be kept. He also suggested that some type of Ordinance or Resolution be amended to prevent this from occurring in the future.

MML Convention - Mr. Blackwell asked the Clerk had the registration forms been turned in and the fee paid. Mrs. Gunn explained that she will submit all the registration forms at the same time so that there is no chance of them getting lost.

''TSCCELLANEOUS

Councilmembers Annual Report - Mr. Tobias reported to Council that he has put together the Annual Report but there is no money left in the line item to pay for the cost of the printing.

Mayor Arrington explained that the Annual Report is put out by the State and the County and the City is supposed to have a report also explaining what the Council has done in the past year.

Metro - Mr. Foster asked the Council has anything been done on the Metro problem? He further contended that he felt it was important because of the impact it will be having on the City. Mr. Blackwell explained that it will be on the Agenda at the next Public Session of the Mayor and City Council.

Mr. Walker asked does the City have any concrete plans on how the City is going to deal with the Metro problem? Mr. Williams explained that the City Attorney has put together a draft Resolution on Parking in the City, to be discussed at the next meeting of the Council.

Mr. Blackwell commented that money was appropriated in the budget for the purchase of parking decals for the citizens so they will be able to differentiate between City cars and outside cars.

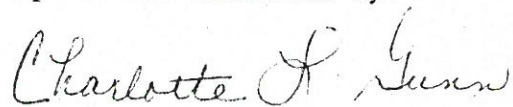
Mr. Walker suggested that Council should appoint a committee to check into the possible problems that might incur once Metro starts operating. Mayor Arrington further commented that he suggest and emphasizes that the developments mechanism package that were put into the Council packages one month ago that he has not gotten any feed back from Councilmembers. He stated that he will need those packages back so that a meeting can be arranged with Councilmembers and the Committee and that Council support is urged.

ug Problem - Mr. Gallion mentioned that there is a possible drug problem around the George Palmer corridor in the parking lot around Murray Steak House.

Mayor Arrington suggested that a meeting with Chief McHale, P.G. County Police Department along with Councilmembers stressing the seriousness of the problem could possibly serve as an aid in curtailing this problem. Mayor Arrington stated that he would go as long as the Council went along with him to represent the City.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:25 p.m.

Prepared and Submitted by:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Charlotte L. Gunn".

Charlotte L. Gunn
City Clerk